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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

EX 10

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Returning German PWs

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Number of German PWs still being retained in the USSR and the Satellite Countries (all figures are approximate).

a. Number of PWs originating from places in Western Germany who had sent messages from PW camps by June 1947 (based on a statistical registration in August 1947): 1,200,000

b. Estimated number of soldiers missing in action who are from places in Western Germany, based on records available at the zonal search centers in MUNICH and HAMBURG and several other search services. (i.e. PWs from whom there are no messages as per para 1 a): 1,800,000

c. Number of the statistically registered PWs and missing soldiers originating from the Soviet Zone of Germany: 500,000

d. The present approximate total is 3,500,000

e. This figure does not include

- (1) displaced women
- (2) displaced civilian laborers from the Soviet Zone of Germany,
the Polish and Soviet administrative areas of Eastern Germany
(East Prussia, Silesia etc.)

The number of persons mentioned under (1) and (2) cannot even be roughly estimated at this time. (The number of displaced skilled laborers alone was estimated at 20,000 in a discussion of the subject by this department).

2. Number of PWs already returned to Western Germany (estimates unless otherwise noted) :

a. US Zone until April 1949 (exact number) 115,384
from April 1949 until July 1949 inclusive 20,000
135,384

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-2-

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25X1A

b. British Zone until July 1949:	150,000
c. French Zone until July 1949	<u>61,879</u>
Total	347,000

3. Health of Returned PWs

a. Until the summer of 1948 the USSR released only those PWs who were unfit for work. Until that time the PWs were in the worst possible physical condition, most of them had contracted all sorts of terrible diseases during their imprisonment. Many of them died after their return.

b. From the summer of 1948 the physical condition of the returned PWs appeared to improve considerably.

c. From 1949 on the average returned PW was in good health and well fed.

d. It could not yet be ascertained what happens to the PWs in the USSR who are unfit for work.

4. Political Attitude of Returned PWs

a. Generally speaking, the experiences they underwent in the USSR turned the PWs into reliable anti-Bolshevists. They are frank and outspoken during the interrogations and almost invariably are prepared to make requested statements.

b. At the turn of the year 1948/49 most of the returned PWs appeared to be very reserved and suspicious. This was caused by threats of the Soviets and by the many spies and ANTIFA-men within the transports.

c. In the camps the PWs were influenced politically in that attempts were made to make them believe that in the capitalistic countries, including Western Germany, the workers are living in dire need and that these conditions can only be altered by a communistic revolution.

d. Some of the returning PWs, approximately 10 - 15 percent, were obviously influenced to a certain extent by the communist agitation. In most cases this influence is completely eliminated after a short stay in Western Germany when they find out for themselves how matters really stand.

e. The number of ascertained ANTIFA-members who are being discharged varies. One has to distinguish between:

(1. Confirmed communists who actually carry out the orders given to them (agitation, to a certain extent even intelligence activities.) and

(2) PWs who joined the active ANTIFA only for reasons of personal advantage.

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